Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

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INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR DEA

REF: (A) MEXICO 102 (B) STATE 014796 (C) STATE015392

- 1. WE UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT SOME OF DEA'S ACTIVITIES AND DESIRE FOR WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AS A BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES AND PROVIDING GENERAL SUPERVISION FOR DEA. THE TWO CIRCULAR MESSAGES YOU HAVE RECEIVED (REFTELS B AND C) PROVIDED ALL POSTS WITH DEA OFFICES GUIDANCE ON DEA ACTIVITIES AND ADDRESSED QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED AT REGIONAL MEETINGS OF NARCOTICS COORDINATORS. THIS SEPARATE MESSAGE IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR A STATEMENT OF OVERALL POLICY ON DEA'S ROLE IN MEXICO IN VIEW OF THE VERY WIDE SCOPE OF ITS ACTIVITIES THERE AND THE AGENCY'S INTENTION SUBSTANTIALLY TO INCREASE ITS STAFF.
- 2. MEXICO HAS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN OUR EFFORTS TO INTER-DICT THE FLOW OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS TO THE UNITED STATES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ACCORDINGLY, WE WANT TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AGGRESSIVELY IN ITS ANTI NARCOTICS CONFIDENTIAL

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CAMPAIGN. SOLID RESULTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED IN MEXICO, IN

GOOD PART BECAUSE THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ENCOURAGED AN ACTIVE DEA ROLE IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROGRAM WHICH IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST. WE REALIZE THAT SUCH DEA ROLE COULD LEAD TO DISTORTED PUBLICITY HERE OR IN MEXICO AND TO ILL-FOUNDED CRITICISM. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT RISK

IN THE INTEREST OF EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND WITH CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL EXERCISE YOUR AUTHORITY TO PREVENT UNREASONABLE JEOPARDY TO OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO OR TO THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN GENERAL.

- 3. IN THE LIGHT OF THE OVERALL POLICY ENNUCIATED IN REFTELS AND ABOVE, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT YOUR GUIDELINES WILL ENVISAGE DEA'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN POLICE OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEXICAN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING RAIDS, SEIZURES ROADBLOCKS, ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS (EXCEPT, OF COURSE, IN INSTANCES IN WHICH YOU FIND SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNWARRANTED RISK). WE WOULD EXPECT THESE OPERATIONS TO BE LED BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS WITH OPERATION TEAMS, PARTICULARLY AT ROADBLOCKS. HAVING A MAJORITY OF MEXICAN AGENTS.
- 4. IT IS DEA POLICY TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLY THESE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS THAT ARE DIRECTED AT MAJOR TRAFFICKERS AND LARGE SEIZURES ASSURING THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF DEA RESOURCES. WE WANT TO SUPPORT THIS POLICY AS THE BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR SETTING GROUND RULES FOR DEA'S PARTICIPATION IN ALL ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN MEXICO. INGERSOLL

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